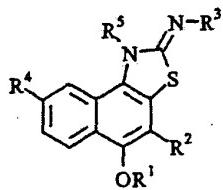


REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Robert Gerstl for his indication that claims 1-62 of the instant application are generic. Applicants further understand that if any of the generic claims become allowable, the withdrawn claims may be introduced. The Examiner alleges that these claims are directed to a plurality of species and therefore has required Applicants to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits.

While the Examiner has not identified any species for the Applicants to elect, the Applicants hereby elect to restrict the invention to the species having compounds of the following formula defined by the structure below:



This species can be found in Claims 25 and 26 and newly added claims 62-64. New claims 62-64 are directed to a method of improving the biomechanical and diffusional characteristics of a biomaterial using an effective amount of a compound of the formula. These claims are supported by at least the specification at page 32, first paragraph, and therefore do not present any new matter. Claims 1-24 and 27-61 are withdrawn.

Applicants believe that the election of claims directed to compounds of the formula noted above address the restriction requirement and place the present application in condition for allowance.

Fees

The fee of \$465 for a three month extension of time is enclosed herewith. No other fees are believed to be necessitated by the foregoing response.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 8, 2003

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